CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Cancel claims 4 and 5.

Amend claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1 (amended) A process for preparing graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters by polymerization of

- a) at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C_1-C_{24} -carboxylic acids in the presence of
- b) polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I

$$R^{1}$$
—(-O-(R^{2} -O)_u-(R^{3} -O)_v-(R^{4} -O)_w—[-A-(R^{5} -O)_x-(R^{6} -O)_y-(R^{7} -O)_z—]_s R^{8})_n

in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

R⁸ hydrogen, C₁–C₂₄–alkyl, R⁹–
$$C$$
(=O)–, R⁹–NH–C(=O)–;

$$R^9$$
 C_1-C_{24} -alkyl;

$$R^{10}$$
 hydrogen, C_1-C_{24} -alkyl, $R^9-C(=O)$ -;

ANGEL et al., Serial No. 09/767,821

Bl

- u 1 to 5000;
- v 0 to 5000;
- w 0 to 5000;
- x 1 to 5000;
- y 0 to 5000;
- z 0 to 5000
- c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

Brancia) b)

- % (amended) Graft copolymers of polyvinyl esters obtainable by polymerization of at least one vinyl ester of aliphatic C_1 – C_{24} –carboxylic acids in the presence of
- polyethers which are solid at room temperature and have the general formula I

in which the variables have the following meaning, independently of one another:

- R¹ hydrogen, C_1-C_{24} -alkyl, $R^9-C(=O)$ -, $R^9-NH-C(=O)$ -, polyalcohol residue;
- R⁸ hydrogen, C₁–C₂₄–alkyl, R⁹–C(=O)–, R⁹–NH–C(=O)–;
- R² to R⁷ –(CH₂)₂–, –(CH₂)₃–, –(CH₂)₄–, –CH₂–CH(CH₃)–, –CH₂–CH(CH₂–CH₃)–, –CH₂–CHOR¹⁰–CH₂–;
- R^9 C_1-C_{24} -alkyl;
- R^{10} hydrogen, C_1-C_{24} -alkyl, $R^9-C(=0)$ -;
- A -C(=O)-O-, -C(=O)-B-C(=O)-O-, -C(=O)-NH-B-NH-C(=O)-O-;

ANGEL et al., Serial No. 09/767,821

Barita

- B $\c CH_2$, arylene, optionally substituted;
- n 1 to 8;
- s 0 to 500;
- t 1 to 12;
- u 1 to 5000;
- v 0 to 5000;
- w 0 to 5000;
- x 1 to 5000;
- y 0 to 5000;
- z 0 to 5000
- c) and, where appropriate, at least one other monomer using a free-radical initiator system, wherein liquid polyalkylene glycol is used as solvent for the free-radical initiator system.

Add new claims 8 and 9:

 B_{1}^{3}

- 8. (new) Coating agents, binders of film-forming excipients for pharmaceutical dosage forms comprising a polymer produced by the process of claim 1.
- 9. (new) Cosmetic hygienic or dermatological preparations containing a polymer produced by the process of claim 1.